

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image carrier for carrying a toner image; and

a transfer roller which is loaded with a force that tends to move the transfer roller toward the image carrier, the transfer roller being arranged in a predetermined positional relation to the image carrier by control means,

wherein the control means is disposed between an axis of the transfer roller and an axis of the image carrier so as to be located outwardly away from an axial end portion of the image carrier.

2. An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image carrier, rotatably supported, for carrying a toner image;

a peripheral rotary body involved in image formation, which is rotatably supported in a periphery of the image carrier; and

control means for controlling displacement of the peripheral rotary body in a direction proximate to the image carrier so as to maintain a predetermined positional relationship between the image carrier and the peripheral rotary body, the control means being so configured that an acting point of impacting force, which is generated in between the image carrier and the peripheral rotary body at a time of image formation, is located on an axis of the image carrier between a position

of an axial end portion of the image carrier and a position nearby in which the image carrier is supported.

3. The image forming apparatus of claim 2, wherein the control means is made of a material having shock absorbency.

4. The image forming apparatus of claim 2, wherein the control means includes:

a first control member loosely fitted to a shaft of the image carrier; and

a second control member loosely fitted to a shaft of the peripheral rotary body, the first and second control means abutting against each other.

5. The image forming apparatus of claim 2, wherein the control means is arranged outwardly away from the axial end portion of the peripheral rotary body.

6. The image forming apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:
oscillation control means for controlling oscillation of each of the first and second control members.

7. The image forming apparatus of claim 6, wherein the oscillation control means is so configured as to inhibit rotation of the first and second control members.

8. The image forming apparatus of claim 6, wherein the abutment portion of the first control member, which abuts against the second control member, is so configured as to protrude outwardly relative to the other non-abutting portions.

9. The image forming apparatus of claim 6, wherein a helical gear is provided as driving force transmitting means for rotatably driving at least one of the image carrier and the peripheral rotary body.

10. An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image carrier for carrying a toner image;

image carrier supporting means for supporting the image carrier in such a way that the image carrier is rotatable about a first rotary shaft which is arranged substantially horizontally;

a transfer member for transferring the toner image carried on the image carrier onto a transfer material;

transfer member supporting means for supporting the transfer member in such a way that the transfer member is rotatable about a second rotary shaft which is arranged substantially parallel to the first rotary shaft; and

a guide member, arranged in close proximity to the transfer member, for guiding the transfer material to a transfer position

in the transfer member, the guide member being supported by the transfer member supporting means.

11. The image forming apparatus of claim 10, wherein the transfer member supporting means and the guide member are each designed to be positioned with respect to the image carrier supporting means by abutting against the image carrier supporting means.

12. The image forming apparatus of claim 11,
wherein the guide member is supported by the transfer member supporting means so as to be oscillatable within a predetermined range of oscillation,

and wherein, when the transfer member supporting means is moved away from the image carrier supporting means, the guide member oscillates so as to be located in a position distant from the transfer member.

13. An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image carrier for carrying a toner image;
image carrier supporting means for supporting the image carrier in such a way that the image carrier is rotatable about a first rotary shaft which is arranged substantially horizontally;

a transfer member for transferring the toner image carried

on the image carrier onto a transfer material;

transfer member supporting means for supporting the transfer member in such a way that the transfer member is rotatable about a second rotary shaft which is arranged substantially parallel to the first rotary shaft;

a cover member, arranged so as to be freely movable close to and away from the image carrier supporting means, for supporting the transfer member supporting means in such a way that the transfer member supporting means is kept in a floating state in a substantially horizontal direction;

a guide member, arranged in close proximity to the transfer member, for guiding the transfer material to a transfer position in the transfer member;

a transfer member supporting means urging mechanism, disposed in the cover member, for resiliently urging the transfer member supporting means toward the image carrier supporting means; and

first positioning means, disposed in part of the transfer member supporting means, for positioning the transfer member supporting means with respect to the image carrier supporting means by abutting against the image carrier supporting means.

14. The image forming apparatus of claim 13, wherein, in the transfer member supporting means is disposed a transfer member urging mechanism for resiliently urging the transfer member

toward the image carrier.

15. The image forming apparatus of claim 14, wherein a first urging pressure, which is exerted by the transfer member supporting means urging mechanism in a direction of the image carrier supporting means, is set to be greater than a second urging pressure exerted by the transfer member urging mechanism in the same direction.

16. The image forming apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first urging pressure is set to be 1.5 times or above greater than the second urging pressure.

17. The image forming apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

guide member supporting means for supporting the guide member on the transfer member supporting means; and

second positioning means, disposed in part of the guide member, for positioning the guide member with respect to the image carrier supporting means by abutting against the image carrier supporting means.

18. The image forming apparatus of claim 17, wherein an urging position in the transfer member supporting means urging mechanism is located in between the first positioning means and the second

positioning means.

19. The image forming apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

charge removal means for removing charges remaining on the transfer material after the transfer process, the charge removal means being supported by the transfer member supporting means.